

The Church of God



Evangel



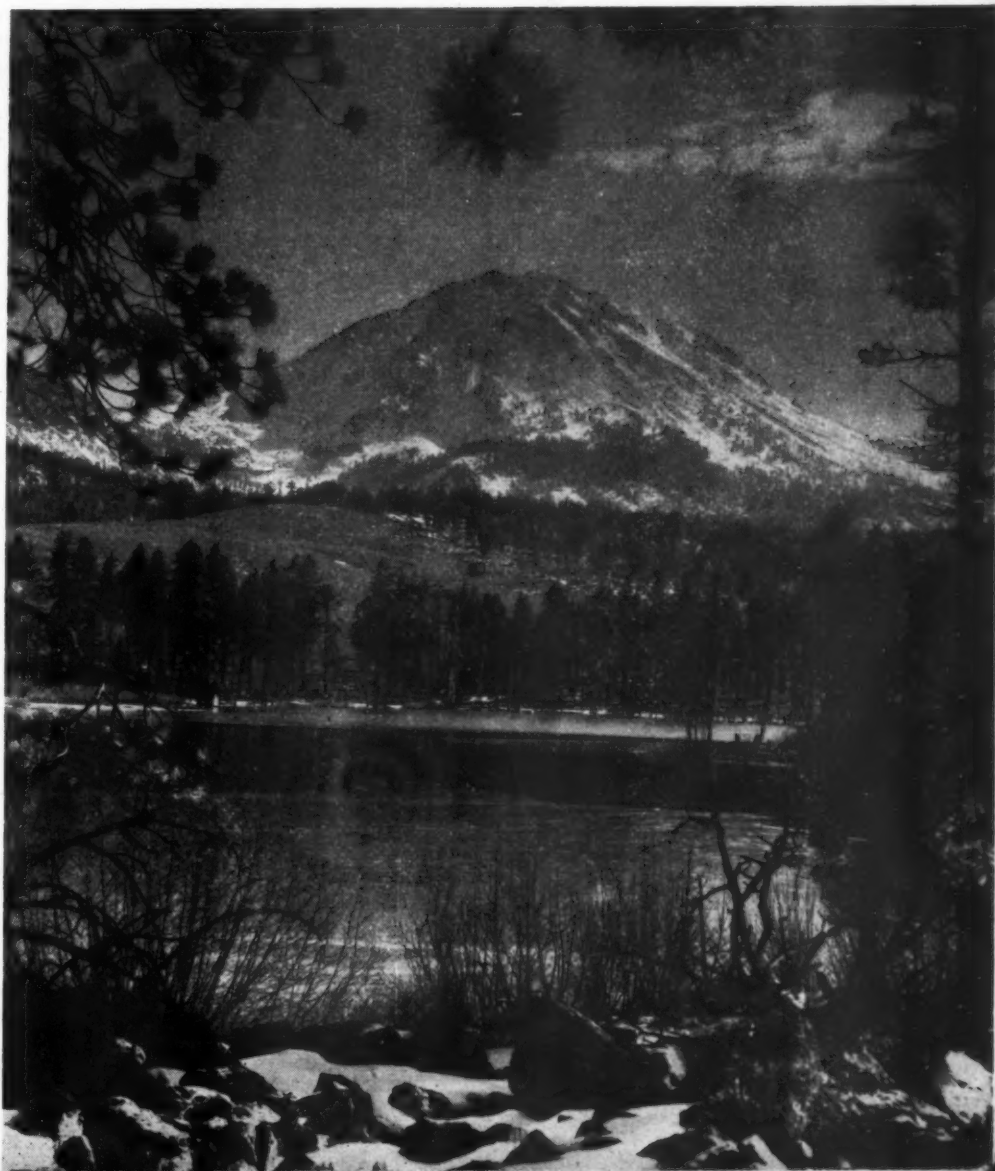
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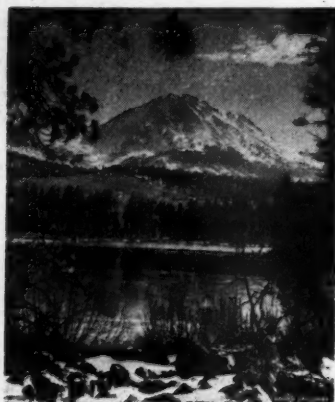
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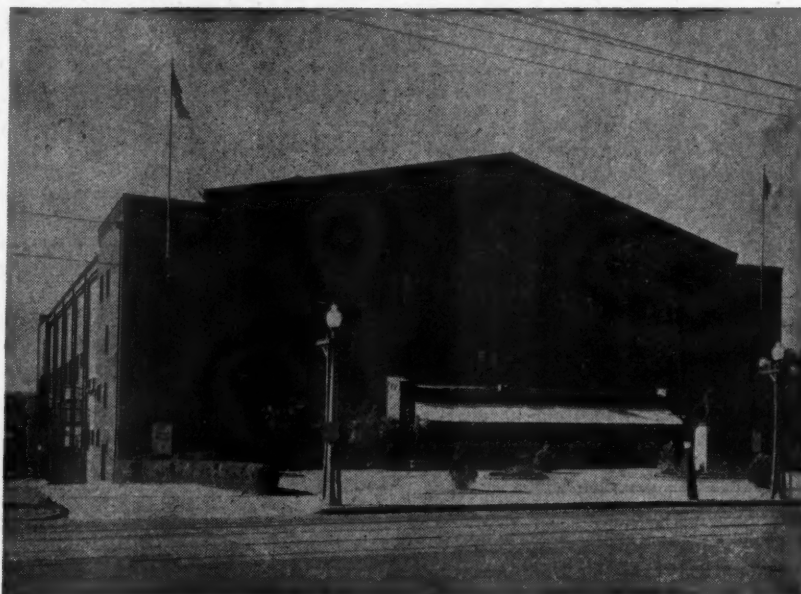


This beautiful, awe-inspiring tran-
quillity calls one away from life's hum-
drum to a greater appreciation of the
great Creator.

The melting snow (and rain) fills
the rivers which overflow to make
fertile valleys, to grow an abundance
of grain to sustain life.

We generally see in overflowing
rivers only property damage and dev-
astation, but God has so designed that
by this method the land may be en-
riched. Since man has cleared away
the forests, the water rushes down

1948 International General Assembly



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August 28, 7:30 P. M. to the 31st, 4:30 P. M.



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the hillsides, unchecked, and floods
the rivers so quickly that many times
great damage is done; but remember,
"He giveth the snow like wool" (Psa.

147:16) and calls all creatures, also
the angelic hosts, sun, moon, stars,
waters, and the snow to praise Him.
(Psalm 148.)

◀ EDITORIALS . . .

WARS! RUMORS OF WARS!

With the great devastation of these last two wars, it seems the whole world would be so tired of war that agreements could be had some way without another terrible conflict.

A veteran said to me a few days ago, "I don't want any more war. I'm not mad at anyone." This, I'm sure, is the feeling of millions in America and no doubt many millions in all the countries, for wars are so terrible. During this last one, fifty-seven belligerent nations lost over fifteen million men in war, Secretary of State George C. Marshall reported. This doesn't, however, include the losses in smaller nations, such as Poland or the Balkan States. Russia suffered the loss of most men, the number given as 7,500,000 men and women killed or missing—that, according to 1940 population, was one out of every twenty-two. While Germany suffered most among the Axis nations, Japan lost one in every forty-six persons. We, the United States, lost 295,904 or one in every five hundred; England, one in every one hundred fifty, the same proportion as Italy. China lost 2,200,000 or one for every two hundred. Secretary Marshall said the cost of war "either in intrinsic values or in intangibles" will never be known and all mathematical terms as battle casualties, dollar expenditures, and similar data are "but partial and inadequate yardsticks."

We don't want war—we know war means destruction, but we must face realities for the Bible states there will be wars and rumors of wars, and we know that the unregenerate heart of man is the breeding place of just such things that go with this world.

James, the apostle, said, "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:1-6. This certainly gives a world picture of the great conflict between capital and labor. We have our ever increasing problems and endless struggle which can be nothing less than the approach to the finals.

At this writing, the United Nations is faced with the grave situation in Palestine and expecting a showdown with Russia within a few days.

There is something about the rumors of war that take a heavy toll on our hopes of attaining peace, but frankly, there can be no real peace until the King of Peace takes complete command. People of God, this is a time when we should pray—fast and pray—that God's will may be done.

Communism is spreading throughout the world and from

all appearances, Russia, under the dictator Stalin, is taking countries today without open war as Germany did in 1938. In our own country, our government is taking the utmost precaution to uncover and properly control communism, for its subversive elements are already fastening its grips on the vitals, the very life of our nation. If democracy goes, with it goes our religious freedom, for communism is definitely against religion in any form. It will not be, as in the past, a matter of conflict between different churches as to certain issues, as whether one should baptize converts by immersing them three times face forward, or just one time backward, or to sprinkle or pour water on them for baptism; nor will it be a matter of music or no music in the church, men wearing neckties or no neckties, hook and eyes, or only buttons on the clothing, or any of the hundreds of the more or less important and petty differences which through these years have divided Christian churches. My dear people, it will be the struggle to death with a godless monster who will not be concerned about the method of baptism, but, defying, will say to all the churches, "You will not baptize at all." You will have no church building left in which to make music or differ with others as to the methods of procedure. Your churches will be turned into theatres and government buildings, as in Russia. Your precious children will be denied a place to go to Sunday School. Then, you who sleep late on Sunday and never take your children to Sunday School, or even send them, will wish for a chance.

You, no doubt, are saying, "Yes, but that won't happen to America; we are a God-loving nation." Well, once we all believed that, but the swing downward for the last several decades has been so rapid and effective that now we are considered a pagan nation and classified as such by the United Nations. America has lost her standing as Christian; evil predominates. If we win (and God have mercy on the whole world if we lose), we must still do it by the men and women—prayer warriors—remaining here, for the tribulation clouds are rising now, the hurricane will eventually strike, and who knows just when?

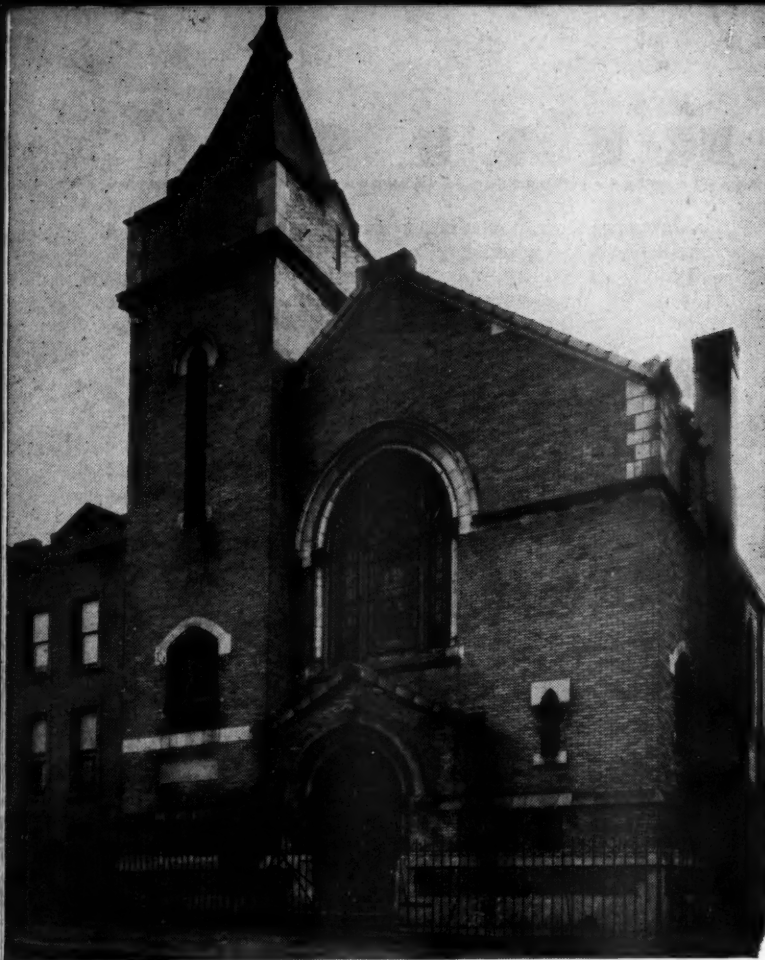
LOST OPPORTUNITY

Felix, the governor at Caesarea, received the apostle Paul, a prisoner, when he was safely brought to him by an escort of seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, and listened to Paul's defence, but when this man of God reasoned (notice *reasoned*) of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled.

"Fear is not faith, but it may lead to faith, or it may lead to hardening."—*Alexander MacLaren*.

"Although Felix often sent for Paul after this, it was only with the hope that Paul would give him a bribe for his freedom. 'Though he heard again,' says Wesley, 'he was terrified no more. He had yielded to motives which prevented the deep impression being repeated.'"—*James Moffatt*.

Felix lost when he said, "Go thy way," and millions of others likewise have lost by saying, "Not today, another time perhaps!" The Spirit will not always strive with man.



The Larger Protestant Churches Turn Toward the "Limousine Trade"

I SEE WHERE another big church has announced "Vesper Services" for the Sunday summer evenings. That is generally the dying gasp before a church tosses in the towel and confesses that a night service is "out," and it is making an honest try at picking up the pieces and rescuing as much as possible from what is left. When a church member, with 168 hours a week at his disposal,

refuses to dedicate even two of them to the worship of God, it is well enough for their officials to take whatever steps are necessary to find out what the proceedings are in spiritual bankruptcy.

The larger branches of the Protestant church are coming more and more to serve the "limousine trade" and leaving it to the newer, and smaller branches to fulfill the Sav-

By **PIERCE HARRIS***

*Reprint from the
Atlanta Journal*

April 11, 1948

EDITOR'S NOTE:

To me, this presents a tragic picture of the spiritual decline so prevalent in America today. With some 80,000 churches closing their doors for the summer, and with the careless, indifferent attitude of so-called Christians, it is indeed appalling.

God give us more men, like Dr. Pierce Harris, who see the conditions and will, with clarion voices, denounce the lethargy, sin, and unbelief in the churches; start old-time prayer meetings with ministers and laymen, who will "weep o'er the erring ones, lift up the fallen," until a mighty revival sweeps our nation.

What a gigantic task assigned only a few whose numbers still remain in the hundreds of thousands, while the greater religious groups are counted in the tens of millions! Could it be this Elijah will find many thousands yet who have not bowed the knee to Baal?

The cause of evangelism is one of the primary purposes for the existence of the National Association of Evangelicals, a growing service organization with a constituency of approximately three millions, representing twenty-nine organizations and local churches, schools, mission boards, and other institutions from twenty-three more denominations, which have as one of their objectives: "To establish a common front for the promotion of evangelical truth against the inroads of heresy (commonly called modernism or liberalism). To challenge all Christian groups and institutions to a positive declaration of the church's evangelical heritage, and to lift the standard against all forms of infidelity, heresy, and apostasy."

lour's command to "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." The result is natural—and to be expected. The towering temples of worship that lift their costly spires above the city sidewalks are dark and closed, while little, lighted places of worship, manned and managed by simple souls who see no inconsistency in demanding that membership mean something, are crowded and overflowing.

HAS HAPPENED BEFORE

It has happened before. When the established church in England became a sort of country club, with a slight religious inflection but not enough to restrain the social aspirations of its members, and became a fraternity of fox hunters, wine drinkers, and card players (this is history), the Methodist church and the Baptist church

(Continued on page 14)

* Pierce Harris, pastor First Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. "This leading pastor in Atlanta wrote this freely as you note, unasked for, unsolicited, and just because he feels that way. Of course, we knew it all the time, but to have him place it in the hands of 302,000 readers of the paper makes me wonderfully happy."—A. M. Phillips, Pastor, First Church of God, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Ministry of ... Suffering

By Rev. James B. Ressor

SUPERINTENDENT INTERNATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE
OUTRAM, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

"Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died,"
John 11:21.

edge God, His wisdom and power, but serve Him in fear rather than in love. Their submission is by compulsion rather than in devoutness. They appreciate His saving grace but have never learned to say, from the heart, "Thy will be done." They cherish in reserve secret idols, and their heavens are often clouded over with curtains of uncertainty. Their confidence may easily be shaken. The Lord is often compelled to meet this attitude by permitting suffering, sorrow, or defeat. It seems that Martha was this type, sincere and yet imperfect. She placed greater stress upon the natural things of life than upon the spiritual. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and learned.

"Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Her lack of faith and foresight robbed her of the comforting assurance of His care. It is rather noticeable that the words were uttered by Martha rather than Mary. "Mary sat still in the house." (Verse 20.) Notice the contrast. One so ready with reproof, a question, selfish desire; the other, quiet, serene, trustful. It is true that Jesus had displayed His healing power on many former occasions and could so easily have saved Lazarus from death. But, now that his death had occurred,

(Continued on page 14)

SINCE THE INCEPTION and subsequent fall of man, humanity has been closely related to suffering. Although this apparently inseparable state by existence has been so often deplored, no solution has been found that will guarantee permanent deliverance for this life. Since this is the truth, those who are of an inquisitive disposition have inquired into this condition with some degree of success. The conclusion reached by many is that the Lord, in His providential care, has ordained that many shall be saved through suffering.

Those who are prompted only by the lower instincts of life, and have chosen to associate with the sordid and the obscene, have pulled the blinds to the bottom, thus closing out all light and all influential workings of the Spirit. This attitude may repay them fleshly

gratifying indulgences, temporarily. They may reach forth greedily to assuage every lust of the fleshly nature, only refraining long enough to experience periods of relaxation in which to conceive of other vile deeds. In choosing to ignore all responsibility to the spiritual life, there is one fact they cannot ignore; that is, suffering. As life continues, particularly when laws of God and health have been neglected, physical suffering will assert itself. In sickness, a loved one is snatched from their home. The armor of resistance to the Lord is pierced. They find no comfort in their grief. There is no further enjoyment in sin. Suffering has served as a messenger to lead them to Christ. Those who persistently resist this messenger can have no hope of future deliverance from torment.

The ministry of suffering does not affect the sinner only. Many acknowl-





A GOOD PASTOR

his
Text: "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained," 1 Tim. 4:6.

I have chosen for a theme not just a title on which to write, but rather that which is the sincere desire of my heart. My life is dedicated to His service, and in the fear of God I submit this writing; not as a philosopher, but as a fellow worker, having obtained like precious faith as ye have, hoping that it may inspire others in their efforts to attain their desired goal in life.

OUR COMMON PROBLEM

One of the principal problems confronting each of us as pastors is that of soul winning, and a more spiritual and better all around church. The pastors we have succeeded have done a fine work in the past. We should appreciate what they have done, and give them proper credit. Their mistakes should be accepted by us as we want others to accept ours, for we all make them. We can't relax in our efforts in achieving our desired goal to take time out to magnify the mistakes of others. We must accept the problem that is before us with all sincerity, and seek remedies and consider methods by which we may attain our goal.

SUGGESTED METHODS

There are many things a pastor should be and do, but in the final analysis the thing that will count most is the depth of your individual Christian experience. A shallow experience manifests itself in self-seeking, lack of interest, and insincerity. These

things will hinder our usefulness, and eventually, if persisted in, will cause shipwreck of faith. The deeper Christian experience makes an individual willing to accept responsibilities and share the burdens of his members. It also creates soul burden for the lost.

TWO IMPORTANT ESSENTIALS CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEEPER CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

The two essential contributors to deeper Christian experiences are prayer and study of God's Word. These are foundation stones upon which a better knowledge and deeper spirituality is builded. Prayer and meditation adds fragrance to our ministry and radiates Christ and the spirit of love and friendliness throughout the entire church. It dispels favoritism, discord, and trouble, which breed freely in the absences of prayer and meditation. Prayer is a must to the successful; prayer adds enthusiasm to the minister's message. It improves the efficiency and presentation of the sermon; therefore, insures a better reception. Prayer is as essential to the successful pastor as water is to the fish.

GOD'S WORD SHOULD BE THE MINISTER'S SPECIALTY

There are specialists in every profession today; physicians specializing in the treatment of the various parts of the body such as eye, ear, and

throat, etc; artists specializing in the various phases of art work; musicians specializing in the mastery of different instruments and vocal music. The profession or goal they seek determines what they must do. He may not desire the long, tedious hours of practice on the piano or other instruments, but if he is to be successful and master his instrument, he must do it. The pastor must study the Word. There may be times when it is easier to seek recreation and indulge in your pet hobbies, but if we are to succeed, we must study.

The people of your congregation are depending on you for instructions in righteousness, and they are risking their all; their very soul is at stake as they receive your gospel and doctrine. We must know we are right. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," 2 Tim. 2:15. Studying gives confidence and godly fear that should attend every message. The writer of Hebrews, thirteenth chapter and seventeenth verse, informs us that we must give an account unto God for the souls of our flock.

THE PASTOR SHOULD KNOW HIS FLOCK

Some may say, "I don't want to know anything about the weaknesses
(Continued on page 14)

Hemphill Avenue Church of God, Atlanta, Georgia



This is a view of the First Church of God in Atlanta, where the pastor, A. M. Phillips, has served for several years. The membership now is 438, his Sunday School approximately 400, his highest monthly average Sunday School attendance 711. For his Sunday evening services, the house is filled with an attendance of about one thousand. They have a splendid radio program and their choir is credited with one of the South's best quartets—the LeFevre Trio and Jim Waits, whose voices have been heard regularly, in person and transcriptions, over a network of fifty-seven stations.

Reverend Phillips is a member of our General Missions Board and has done a commendable work for missions. He is a great booster of our Bible School and College, and he is an enthusiastic, sincere, untiring worker, who gets things done for the great cause of Christ.

Echoes of an Accepted Challenge

FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN YOUTH CONGRESS
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Held in J. Frank Norris Temple
March 24, 25, 26, 1948

During the congress the National Youth Director, Brother Ralph Williams, presented a challenge to every Sunday School teacher there to win the lost of his class to God. You will see by Mrs. Warner's letter that she has taken the matter to heart and is doing something about it:

"Dear Brother Williams:

"Remember the promise we Sunday

School teachers made to you and God at the Youth Congress at Fort Worth? Well, I'm glad to report the good news that three in my class have been saved, two sanctified, and two filled with the Holy Ghost since the Congress. Our Sunday School has a fine number of young people, and it is growing every Sunday. We thank God for His goodness to us here in Ama-

rillo. Pray for God to continue to bless our efforts.

"Yours truly,
Mrs. J. W. Warner,
Amarillo, Texas."

Too many times teachers, like ministers, overlook the golden opportunity of winning individual souls to God. The appeal to the masses and groups is good, but if a soul is ever saved, that person must be saved as an individual. Therefore, one should aim definitely at the salvation of each unsaved person of the class.

God's will can only be done in us when we give Him our cooperation.

NOAH'S DAY AND OURS

FOR AN OBVIOUS DESCRIPTION of the world in the last days, morally, religiously, and politically, Christ refers us to the days preceding the flood. It means, then, that the same conditions which occasioned the apostasy of human society and filled the earth with violence in Noah's day will also occasion the latter-day "falling away" and the great tribulation as a consequence. Christ and His apostles tell us in plain words what shall give rise to the antichrist in the end of this age; that is, "that day shall not come except there come a falling away first" (2 Thess. 2:3). We see here that it is powerless religion that will give rise to the antichrist kingdom. From this we learn that powerless religion occasioned the flood in Noah's day; for, "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Conditions and causes are identical.

In fact, religious apostasy is the primary cause of every world disaster. "Ye are the salt of the earth," Jesus said. This simply means that the power of true religion is the only influence which may restrain the streams of iniquity and keep the earth from filling with violence. True religion is to human society and world government what salt is to organic substances. It preserves from corruption and error. "If the salt lose its savour"; i. e., if religion loses its power of influence, there is nothing left to restrain the streams of sin, and as a result an inundation of judgment is inevitable. Those nations in whose hands the church is lodged soon fills the measure of sin and ripens apace for ruin.

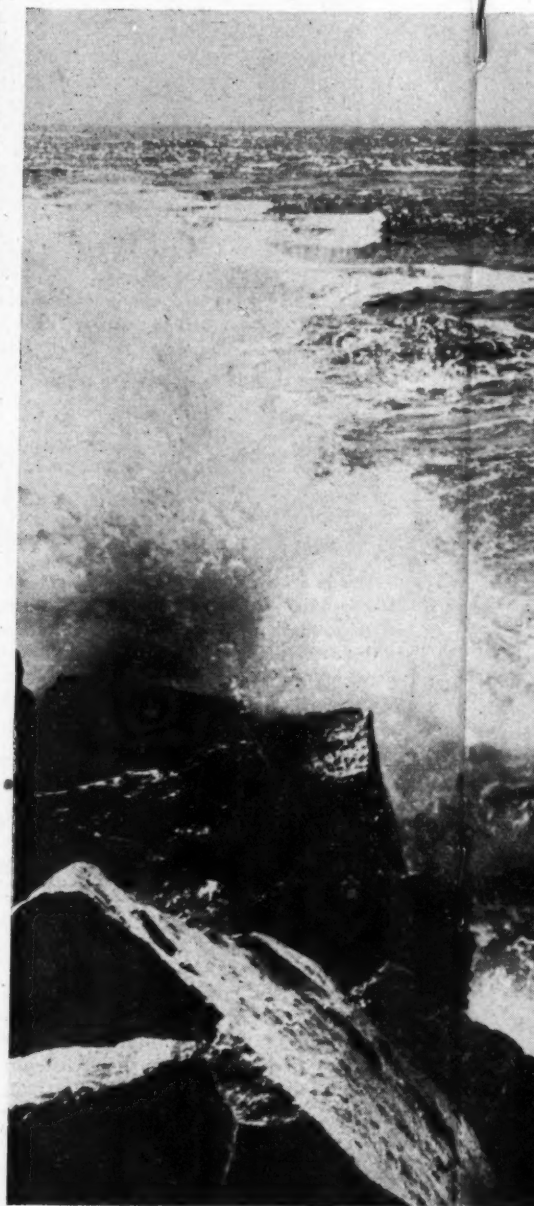
Those who profess religion are, therefore, responsible for the peace and safety of the earth. Had there been enough praying people in Sodom and Gomorrah, God would have spared it. Had the old world repented and reformed themselves under the preaching of Noah and Enoch, God would have spared it. God spared Nineveh when they repented. I say upon the score of this argument, that the reason we are having so much

war and tribulation today is because of lifeless religion, and the stroke of God will not be lifted unless and until the professors of religion repent. The repetitions of history fit parallel with Scripture to prove me on this point. Note, there has been since Abraham of Ur four great dispensational churches, four great apostasies, and as a result four dark nights of tribulation. The four great churches are: Patriarchal, Jewish, Apostolic, and Protestant. The four great apostasies are: Paganism, Ritualism, Romanism, and now Formalism. The four resulting disasters are: Egyptian Bondage and desolation, the desolation of Jerusalem, the Dark Ages, and the world disaster in which we are now. Had the Patriarchal church retained the high standard exemplified in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they never would have labored under the miserable servitude of the Pharaoh's—Egyptian dictators. Had the Jewish church retained the original standard as set in the written law of Moses, they never would have worn the Roman yoke. Had the Apostolic church retained her primitive consecration, the Dark Ages would never have occurred. Now the Protestant church, in the very wake of her predecessors, is in a lifeless state of formalism, and the final results will doubtlessly be the great tribulation and the coming of Christ in judgment.

Let us not ignore these significant historical facts. Even during the short period of the judges—less than four hundred years—Israel apostatized seven times, and every apostasy brought on dark oppression. Observe, seven apostasies and seven dark oppressions were the results. Every time they backslid, some heathen king would flood the nation with war and desolations. Read Judges 3:12, 13.

These historical facts, based upon Bible doctrine, prove beyond question that the primary cause of the flood was the apostasy of religion, and the very same conditions will bring antichrist and the great tribulation. Let us analyze the scriptural account of Noe's day, and see a reproduction of the same in our day.

Evangelist
B. Sunday Myers



"As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Apostasy of Religion

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair;

and they took them wives of all which they chose," Genesis 6:1, 2.

In this scripture two things are observed which occasioned the increase of sin in Noah's day; first, "the increase of men"; second, "mixed religion."

Increase of Men. Was it wrong for the population to increase? Indeed not. It would have been wrong not to increase. We must look for another answer. The inference is this: they increased, and instead of spreading out upon the earth as God would have them do, they lived centralized and congested, as they now do in our great cities. Of course, when transgressors aggregate, sin is multiplied. This is implied in the fact that God determined to scatter the people after the flood (in the confusion of tongues), lest they build another closed city and thereby give rise to another apostasy. The more people there are in close groups, the greater is the occasion of sin. "When the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring," Acts 6:1. "When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth," Proverbs 29:16. Now this is a condition close akin to our day, for nations are fastly aggregating. Not mere communities, but whole nations are melting together. Characteristic of antichrist's kingdom is the fact of coalition, a united kingdom, and sin is multiplied as a result.

Mixed Religion. "The sons of God married the daughters of men." The sons of God; that is, the professors of religion, mingled and mixed with those who were carnal, superficial, and strangers to God. There are two Bible terms by which the people of God and the world are distinguished in the Patriarchal Age, and every other age as well: the "sons of God" and the "children of men." These are the two terms by which the two classes are denominated: the "sons of God" to identify the church, and the "children of men" to identify the wicked and worldly. The one is a heavenly term, the other earthly. The one bespeaks a spiritual nature, the other a carnal nature. The one identifies the seed of the woman, the other

the seed of the serpent—the Messianic line and the flesh line.

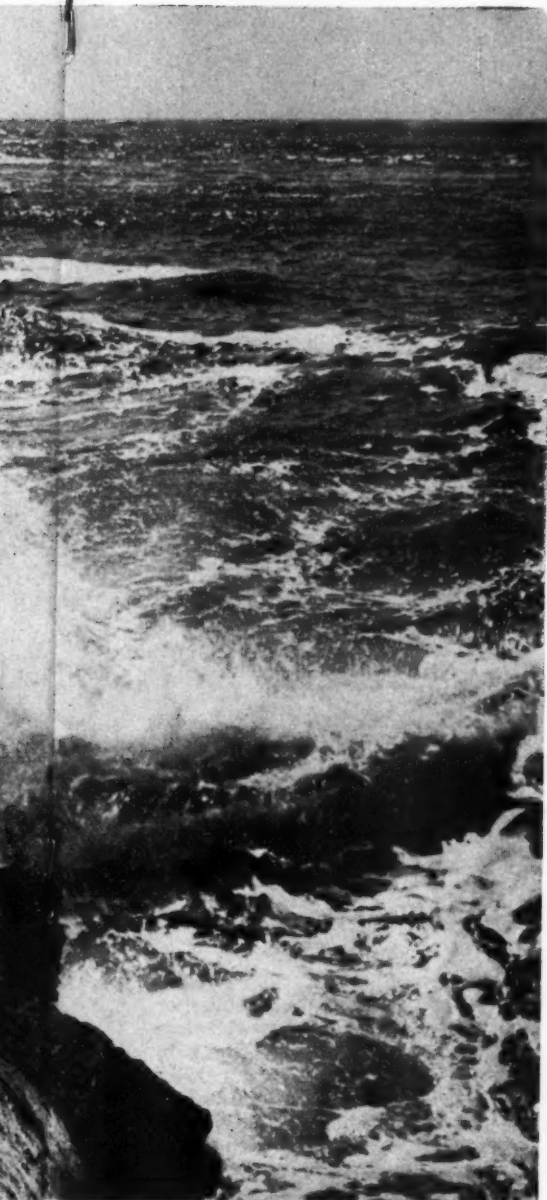
We are told that in the original, "children of men" reads "sons of Adam," fallen Adam, whose children are "by nature the children of wrath," Eph. 2:3. After the flood it is noticed that the children of men built a tower. This simply means that the wicked constructed the tower; the Messianic line, God's people, did not mix with those Babel builders. The sons of God did not join those sons of Adam in their wicked designs. Righteous Heber and his sons, the Messianic line, kept themselves separate from this worldly project.

There is great significance in these two terms, "children of men" and "sons of God." God calls the wicked the "children of men" for three reasons: first, to signify their weakness and frailty; second, their sinfulness and fallen nature; third, to distinguish them from the Messianic line. This distinction is noticed all through the ages, and will continue until the seed of the woman crushes the head of the serpent. On one the blessing is entailed, on the other the curse. One are the children of promise, the other children of destruction. These two classes have been separated all through the ages, and will continue to be so until Jesus comes.

These two lines were distinguished before the flood in the descendants of Seth and Cain, after the flood in Ham and Shem. Notice, Ham is greatly disowned of God by being called "the father of Canaan"; that is, the father of those on whom the curse was entailed. Shem was greatly honored by being called "the father of all children of Heber"; that is, those on whom the blessing came. Heber descended from Shem and begat many children, who became God's covenant people and were later called "Hebrews." Now this Heber and his children did not join the children of men in the construction of Babel, and this illustrates why God only scattered them, not destroyed them. Had the sons of God been mixed with those Babylonish infidels, God would have destroyed them.

The term "sons of God" is doubly significant. The Bible even gives the date and the fixed place where the term started; viz., at the birth of Enos: "Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord," Gen. 4:26. Notice, the margin reads: "Then men

(Continued on page 14)



Missionary Returns to Africa

Where ten years ago she watched her husband die of the native fever. This lone, courageous woman challenges the last one of us.

A Continued Journey of Twelve Thousand Miles of Answers to Prayer!

This is the beginning of a letter from Sister Pearl Stark, who has recently arrived in Angola, Portuguese, West Africa. I am sure our readers will enjoy following her journey from the United States to the land of her calling.

Chitau, Andulo Bie
Angola, Portuguese
West Africa
March 26, 1948

Dear Brother Brinsfield and
Friends at Home:

"Step by step as thou goest, thy way shall be opened up before thee" has been a promise literally fulfilled day by day; also, the one in John 10:4, "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them . . . for they know his voice." There are times in such a path when it seems hard to know which way to turn, like a wall too high to climb over and no way through. Then we remember His words in the Psalms, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." If we turned aside when confronted with difficulties, we should fail to know and see what the Lord would do if we could learn to stand still and wait on the Lord until we hear Him say, "This is the way, walk ye in it." We human beings are so prone to want to see every step of the way before moving forward in obedience to the command of the Lord. "If I could know the end from the beginning," someone says, "then I would not mind following the Lord." We can't always know that,



These are native people of the section called Quanso Sol. There are no Christians in this very large section including several tribes. As you see them looking down the road, they were watching us as we were driving away. We could not at that time give them the Word. Their language is not written and they have no one to teach them. No one could interpret for us, so we knelt on the ground and prayed that God would help us to give this people the gospel. They are still looking for someone to return to Africa with the light of the Word.

Mr. Stark's dying prayer was, "Lord, send someone to take my place. Send the Word to Quansa Sol."—Mrs. Pearl Stark.

but there is one thing we can know, and that is that the promise of the Lord never falls. "Step by step as thou goest, thy way shall be opened up before thee." Thank God for the "shall be" and for His "wills," as He said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." We may feel forsaken sometimes, but when we look up to Him who spoke those words, we find He is there.

I have found, too, that when walled in on every side, and can see no way out, the Lord has a purpose in the whole thing. When forced to stand still to see which way the Lord will lead, I find it is not standing with nothing to do; but almost always when I begin to look around me to see why it should be thus, I find the Lord



Mrs. Pearl Stark

has something for me to do there, or a lesson to learn which I need before I shall be able to meet what the Lord sees down life's pathway farther on. Then when the task was finished or the lesson learned, I found the door swinging open: "Step by step." Yes, many times only a step, but God was

(Continued on page 15)



Lee College

(Church of God Bible Training School)

COMMENCEMENT WEEK PROGRAM

Music Recital Saturday, 8:00 P.M., May 15
 Baccalaureate Sermon . . Sunday, 10:30 A.M., May 16
 Senior Play Monday, 8:00 P.M., May 17
 Senior Play Tuesday, 8:00 P.M., May 18
 Class Day Exercises.. Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., May 19
 Singing Convention . Wednesday, 2:00 P.M., May 19
 Glee Club and Band
 Concert Wednesday, 8:00 P.M., May 19
 Commencement . . . Thursday, 10:00 A.M., May 20

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Baccalaureate Sermon Robert H. Humbertson,
 Associate Pastor, Washington, D. C., Student,
 University of Maryland.

Commencement Address . . Dr. Alfred Leland Crabb,
 Head of English Dept., George Peabody College,
 Nashville, Tennessee, and noted Southern author
 and novelist.

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Wonderful Healing Power

GREENWOOD, S. C.—I praise God for His wonderful healing power. He healed me of a terrible headache as I was praying one night. I fell and broke my hip seven months ago. He has been with me in a wonderful way and has blessed me and brought me through many hard trials. I praise His name for it. Pray for me and my family.—Mrs Mattie Brown.

Jesus Heals Today

I am glad to say that Jesus heals today just as He did when he walked the shores of Galilee. I have been sick so many times and He has come to my rescue. He has healed my little girl many times and healed many people in our services. I want every-one who reads this to pray for me that I will have more faith.—Mrs. Ernest Mills.

Testimony

RINER, Va.—I praise the Lord for His healing power. He touched my body when I was suffering with heart trouble and nervousness.—Mrs. Harry Duncan.

The Bible is God's last will and tes-tament to man, and if he rejects it he rejects God's offer of mercy and salva-tion.



The Proposed New Home of the Evangel

This picture is the artist's conception of the proposed and postponed beautiful office and Publishing House building. The lot opposite the post office, downtown Cleveland, and the architect's complete plans and specifications have been purchased, awaiting more favorable circumstances. For a long time we have been overcrowded in our present building and the expansion is very greatly needed. In fact, I doubt that in all the history of our work the need for expansion has ever been greater.

Girls' Orphanage

Our latest orphanage building which was completed and furnished recently at a cost of approximately \$75,000. This makes five large homes for our 211 children. We have two large farms, well-equipped and stocked, where our 124 boys and the management raise stock, grain, and provisions for all the homes.

Since 1918, The Church of God has, including the present number, offered comfortable homes and schooling for 600 children.



Read All About It

It's grand news . . . and it's true! We are to get a big extra . . . cash . . . bonus on our 1948 collection of coupons.

To begin with, we always receive a liberal cash allowance for the coupons our friends contribute to our work. Then, on top of that, we get a cash bonus. This year it will be 10 percent in cash on our total of coupons (except Borden's), if we equal or exceed our coupon return of 1947. Now, that's fair enough, isn't it?

Markets everywhere have well-stocked shelves of the coupon-bearing products, named below. Because we know you are now able to find the products you prefer, we ask that you save and send us the valuable coupons you get with these products . . . **Octagon Soap Products, Luzianne Coffee and Tea, Ballard's Obelisk Flour, Jersey Cereals, Mrs. Filbert's Margarine, Rumford Baking Powder, Borden's Silver Cow Evaporated and Borden's Magnolia Condensed Milk.**

Extra cash is ours if we buy the above named products and have the children collect the coupons. We shall be grateful for your contributions, no matter how small.

Remember, "drops of water make the oceans and grains of sand make the world." We have a whole year to see what coupons will do, but let's go to work now and your state will get all the credit in the end.

CHURCH OF GOD ORPHANAGE, J. A. Muncy, Superintendent

Interesting Developments

IN OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE

It is heartening to view the tremendous strides of progress which have been made in every department of our church work during the past few years. Especially are we grateful for the fact that our foreign missionary enterprise has grown to be such a powerful influence for Christ throughout the world. Through the grace of God and the faithful loyal support of our church people in America, together with the sacrificial efforts of our missionaries on the field, we now have established churches in more than thirty foreign countries and territories. With 900 local churches, 887 native workers, and 43 American missionaries, we have a communicate membership of more than 40,000 outside the U. S. A. There are ten thousands of other Christians who as yet are unable to meet our high standards for church membership, but who attend our services regularly and consider themselves to be members of the Church of God. For instance, in the tiny Republic of Haiti, our actual church membership is only 4,558. In that country, we have 240 native workers, 67 established churches, and 57 missions, with a total number of 15,000 adherents to the faith. This condition exists to a lesser or greater degree in many other mission fields. We thank God that the blessed gospel of Jesus Christ is saving thousands of those who were in darkness and superstition without the knowledge of redemption through Christ.

Our work in Europe is growing steadily. We had definite hopes of effecting a formal unification with several thousands of our brethren in the Balkan States, who call themselves Church of God but who desire a representative from America to visit them and receive them into denominational fellowship. However, the iron curtain has fallen on the Balkan States, and since February of this year, persecution has broken out and our leading ministers have been incarcerated in prison camps, our churches closed, and inexpressible privations are being endured by our precious people because of their Christian testimony. Will you please, dear reader, remem-

ber these people in prayer? It is impossible for them to communicate much of their true condition to the outside world. Their limited correspondence is written in figurative language, but you may be sure that their metaphors are full of meaning in human suffering.

Through the efforts of the National Association of Evangelicals, the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association has been formed. This Association maintains an office in Washington, D. C., for the purpose of representing all missionary societies to our Government in matters pertaining to the propagation of the gospel. Through the facilities in this office, we have been able to get our missionaries to

some of the difficult fields and to expedite the matter of obtaining passports and visas.

The E. F. M. A. also has a purchasing office in New York City. Through its services, we are able to purchase missionary equipment of all kinds at reduced prices, and to get delivery on scarce and almost unobtainable merchandise. In addition to this, the New York office assists our missionary department in arranging for transportation and shipping for missionaries. Certainly, God hath abundantly smiled upon evangelical Christianity, in that these worthy objectives have been realized.

The future is challenging and the fields are white. Great doors of opportunity stand ajar. Some are closing. The curtain of godlessness is falling on vast areas, and millions are being enslaved. Some doors are closed. Let us work while it is day.—J. Stewart Brinsfield, Executive Missions Secretary.

Regional Youth Meetings

Three regional youth congresses have just closed, but the spiritual blessings and inspiration from these great meetings will remain forever in the hearts of the hundreds who attended. Our consecrated youth were there with a positive purpose in mind, which was to better equip themselves for future work in the Church of God. The attention they gave to various subjects, such as "A Junior Y.P.E.," "Daily Vacation Bible Schools," "Sunday Schools," and "Youth Services," was marked, and they returned home with zeal and information to help and be a blessing to the young people of their communities. Panel discussions were held, which were very interesting and informative. A venture into the field of quiz programs, on the Bible and history of the Church of God, proved its worth for future use in youth work.

Each meeting was filled with the presence and power of God, the very best of music and singing, and a variety of great preaching from young and old ministers, who were anointed of God.

These are the first regional meetings to be held, but they are only a beginning. Mail is coming in steadily, asking for them next year, and the regions that have not as yet had one have telegraphed us, asking that one be held in their district.

Our hearts ring out with gratitude and thankfulness to God for His blessings and approval on these meetings.

We cannot thank the general officials enough, who cooperated in every way to make these youth meetings a success; and especially did we appreciate the presence and assistance of the state overseers. Each state was well represented by the pastors and youth of the Church, without which the meetings would not have been possible. We were very glad to have representatives from other Pentecostal denominations, also.

Our next congress will be in Lemmon, South Dakota, May 7-9. If you haven't made plans to attend, do so at once. It is an opportunity you should not miss. Come on; we will meet you there.—Ralph E. Williams, National Youth Director.

NOAH'S DAY AND OURS

(Continued from page 9)

began to be called by the name of the Lord. "God" is His name, and those called thereby are "sons of God." This is God's way of telling us that the Sethites stirred themselves in religion and distinguished themselves from the Cainites by denominating or naming themselves. They said, "We are not Cainites, worldlings, depraved, and of the devil; we are 'sons of God,' redeemed by his grace, regenerated, and separated from the world."

(To be continued)

THE LARGER PROTESTANT CHURCHES . . .

(Continued from page 4)

stepped into the breach and began to preach a doctrine that emphasized a "Way of Life" in which the concepts of Jesus could be seen in the conduct of His followers. People turned to them by the thousands, like thirsty travelers in a desert turn to the waters of a saving stream. And so the foundations of the churches, now closing out their Sunday night business with little gestures of failure, were laid. How the mighty have fallen!

Making an early morning return from Anniston, Ala., some days back, with the sifting spring sunshine throwing fantastic shadows across the highway, I tuned in a station where "Brother Nicodemus" was conducting a little worship program. I don't know him. In fact, never heard of him before. He spoke with a broken accent, and was a minister, I think, in the Church of God. But his broken words held a warmth that drew attention to what he said.

It was about God. And how God is our Heavenly Father. And about America. And how we are free to worship in whatever church and manner we please. Then an appeal to his hearers to come to the services. He told the names of a lot of places where that night, the lamps would be lighted, the door would be wide open, and somebody would be singing, "He's a Wonderful Saviour to Me."

A "MUST" IN LIFE

Grassy Nob, Hendricks Cross Roads, Rhones Schoolhouse, Flint Hill, and Level Creek, it seems, do not find it necessary to fall back on a vesper service. From what Brother Nicodemus said, the places were full the night before and they were expecting another big crowd that night. He talked of "salvation" and what it does for

the human soul and the homes and hearts of men and women. He made it sound like a "must" in the life of a person who was finding it difficult to live with dignity and courage.

Riding along in the sunshine, I examined what the minister was offering his people, and what they were flocking to his church to get. It was exactly what the Methodists and Baptists offered their people back yonder when "Christians" went to church. We took the torch of truth from the indifferent hands of our English forebearers; and now the Church of God and the Nazarenes seem to be taking it from ours.

While Baptists and Methodists sit around their Sunday night supper tables and entertain their friends, these torchbearers are out in the highways and hedges doing the King's business. More power to them!

THE MINISTRY OF SUFFERING

(Continued from page 5)

Jesus was anxious for Martha to learn a lesson through sorrow. He was about to reveal His power in a greater way. Presently, the tomb with its silent guest was to become the scene of activity, of a miracle. The Master, uttering words of power and authority, revealed the glorious power of God, by calling Lazarus forth. The incident, because of its unusual propensity, turned the minds of many heavenward. It was natural for Christ to perform such a miracle. He is the Resurrection and the Life.

We may, upon occasion, feel like crying out to the Master, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my loved one would not have been taken." Christ has never promised to save us from suffering, but He will draw us nearer to Himself through the trial. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." We may also feel disposed to say, "Lord, if thou hadst been near, I would not have failed through discouragement," or, "I would not have yielded to temptation." Let us remember that strength comes through exercise. Tribulation worketh patience. We are made perfect through suffering. Until we have dwelt in the desert, faced the fiery furnace, confronted the lions in their den, been falsely accused, and have become the recipients of uncharitable slanderings, we do not know how strong we are. After such experiences,

men are qualified to face the storms of life, providing we maintain an unswerving faith.

We cannot afford to question His wisdom, so in humble submission let us learn the lessons of life in His way. Wounds may be experienced, but healing balm will be applied. All wounds cannot be covered, some must be probed. While the initial experience may be very distressing, the healing will be genuine. If we aspire to Christian perfection, suffering will prove to be a necessary part of our education. "O Lord, in it all, teach us to pray sincerely, 'Thy will be done.'"

A GOOD PASTOR

(Continued from page 6)

of my people, then no one can say I am preaching to them." The pastor is given for the perfection of saints; therefore, the better he is acquainted with the needs of his people, the better he can supply their needs. If your car is out of gas, you wouldn't want to give it a general repair job. As quickly as you ascertain the gas is out, you put gas in and save time and money. If a pastor studies his people's spiritual needs and understands them, then pays and seeks divine guidance and studies his Bible, and under inspiration preaches such subjects as his flock needs, his messages will be more timely and appropriate and therefore, will come nearer helping his people than messages chosen because they are easier and because they will not require as much preparation. I knew a physician who, when called to a patient, instead of giving a thorough examination, he took for granted that she was suffering from gallstones, gave her a shot, and went his way. The lady's appendix burst. She didn't need gallstone treatment; she needed treatment for appendicitis. How often is the wrong ailment treated with the average sermon from the pulpits today. The minister should never preach just because it is expected of him and he must do so to pass the time. He should preach because he has a message and the aim and purpose of that message should be to meet the need of his congregation. Never preach to those who are not present, but feed the flock. Acts 20:28.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OR JOB OF THE PASTOR

Remember, your primary job is to preach and inspire each member to better Christian living. Cultivate the

spiritual element of your church, always striving to lead your people to a deeper spirituality. The keener the spiritual interest, the greater the possibility for the growth and progress of your church. Strive to make your services lively and interesting. Honor God and recognize the Holy Ghost at all times.

THE PASTOR SHOULD BE AN EX-AMPLE TO THE FLOCK

If he doesn't want his members to talk about one another and sow discord in the church, he must not talk to one member about another. He should never side with any faction, but should seek to promote love and unity in the body of Christ, which is the church.

THE PASTOR SHOULD HAVE A SHEPHERD'S HEART

Remember the words of Jesus in the tenth chapter of John about the good shepherd. "When he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them." Be a leader of the flock, not a driver. The shepherd of old led his sheep. He was the first to encounter the danger of the wilds. Watch for the souls of your flock. Guard your pulpit from strangers that would pervert their hearers from the doctrines of the Bible, which we hold dear to us. Imitate the picture of the Great Shepherd in the familiar picture carrying the lamb in His arms. We should strive to help the weak and win the wanderer back to the fold. Visit him, not to inform him that we are calling a conference or cleaning out the church; but visit him to pray with him and encourage him. Remember the prophecy of Christ before He was born of the virgin Mary, that a bruised reed He will not break until He shall establish judgment. The bruised reed was used to whistle with in the Oriental days; when it became marred, it was seemingly worthless. Jesus saw enough good in it not to break it until He should establish judgment. Christ sees good in the sheep that have strayed from the fold. Let us bring them in.

BE A GOOD ORGANIZER

We don't need over-organization, but at the same time we should have a good framework for a substantial foundation, on which to build something permanent for God and His Church. Where there is proper organization everyone feels more of an obligation, which automatically creates opportunity for individual developments. I think it develops permanence, because it spreads the load and

makes the individual more interested in carrying on. It creates a spirit of love and unity, because everyone is sharing the burden and responsibilities that otherwise would be on the pastor's shoulders only. For this type organization we should have our strongest, most conscientious Christians, who are well established in the faith and teachings as outlined by our General Assembly. This will have an establishing effect upon new converts and members coming to us from other churches, and save many heartaches and conferences.

DEVELOP YOUR TALENT

Every pastor should develop the undeveloped talent of his church. Do not bring in talent from other places all the time, and boost them to the highest at the expense of those in your local church who need only a chance, many of them possessing greater possibilities than the ones you are using. Remember, the talent that is developed in your church means permanent talent for the church; some for years, some for a lifetime, when those you are paying from other churches and places are there only for the money and publicity. No doubt, there is much undeveloped talent in your church. What are you doing about it? Some may say, "I will wait, and let the next pastor have that job." If the pastor before you had felt that way, many of the trained workers who are helping you put the program over would still be in the rough. To me, no singers, speakers, teachers, or instructors satisfy like those of the Church of God, developed for and by the Church, and having a love and appreciation for its teachings and standards. I am glad we do not have to leave our ranks to find the best qualified instructors to develop our undeveloped talent. If it's in music, we have it. If it's business science, then our college is the place to go. If it's religious education or Christian training, we have it.

CONCLUSION

The good faithful pastor will be glad in the judgment when he beholds what God has wrought through his untiring efforts. The words "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" will sound like music to his ears while the crown of glory is placed upon his brow. To view the souls won by his own efforts and the souls won by the talent he has helped develop will produce joy and ecstasy that will fill heaven with praise and glory to God

and the Lamb for ever and ever.

MISSIONARY RETURNS TO AFRICA

(Continued from page 10)

leading and He will see to the next step. He never falls.

Over a year ago last October, when difficulties arose in attempting to send some new workers out to Africa, the Lord began to speak to my heart. For a number of years the way had been closed, and it had been a battle in my own heart to be willing to stand aside and help send others, if He saw best. This I had tried to do faithfully, though often not understood. Many times have I gone to churches and spoken on missions with a heavy heart. I felt keenly the need in the whitened harvest field, but the Lord still said, "Stand still." I tried always to keep myself out of the picture, for I wanted to be sure it was the Lord leading when I returned to the field, since He had blocked the way. I tried to keep the need before you of others who were on the field in active service for the Lord. I found it necessary to work at jobs here and there to make ends meet. Then my health would break and I was afflicted, but Jesus was working out His purpose. During those years between the time the Lord had called Mr. Stark home to be with Him, and October of 1946, I learned that many of the things we can't understand are a part of God's great pattern which He is weaving. I learned something of how Jesus felt when the mocking crowd said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save."

"Oh yes," someone says, "but He was the Son of God." Yes, you are right. He was the Son of God; but He was the Son of man also, and He passed through that hour for us. When God was ready, God answered the mocking crowd. The heavens became black, the earth quaked, and the veil was rent in twain. We are sons and daughters, joint heirs with Christ, and God will work for us because of Jesus, when we wait for Him. We may have to wait long, it may seem sometimes that He is silent toward us, and those around us may begin to say, "You have failed, you have stepped aside, or you would be doing the Lord's work," but keep your eyes on the Lord. God works, and always in time, just like clockwork; but if we are not ready when the clock strikes, we miss a blessing.

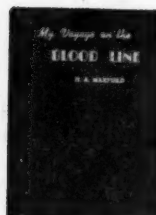
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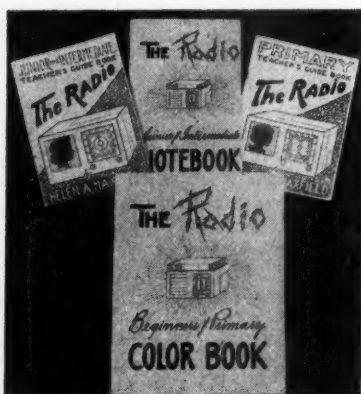
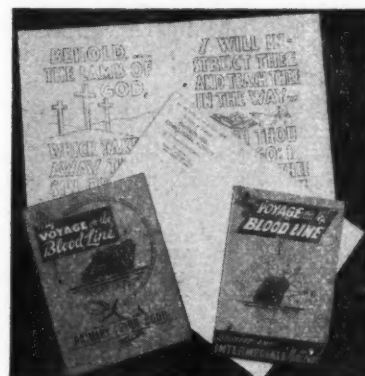
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